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Please enter and consider the following amendments to the claims. All pending claims not amended herewith are shown in small type for ease of reference.

8. (Amended) A method for the detection of a polynucleotide [of Claim 1], comprising contacting said polynucleotide with a probe that hybridizes, under stringent wash conditions of at least 65°C, less than about 150 mM salt, to at least [25] 17 contiguous nucleotides of:

a) the [coding portion] open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1; or

b) the [coding portion] open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 3;

to form a duplex, wherein detection of said duplex indicates the presence of said polynucleotide.

9. (Amended) A kit for the detection of a polynucleotide [of Claim 1], comprising a compartment containing a probe that hybridizes, under stringent hybridization wash conditions of at least 65°C, less than about 150 mM salt, to at least 17 contiguous nucleotides of [a polynucleotide of Claim 1]:

a) the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1; or

b) the open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 3;

to form a duplex, wherein detection of said duplex indicates the presence of said polynucleotide.

10. (Reiterated) The kit of claim 9, wherein said probe is detectably labeled.

Please enter and consider the following new claims:

21. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said probe hybridizes to at least 25 nucleotides of said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1 or said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 3.

1 22. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said probe hybridizes to at least 35
2 nucleotides of said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1 or said open reading frame of SEQ
3 ID NO: 3.

1 23. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said probe hybridizes to at least 55
2 nucleotides of said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1 or said open reading frame of SEQ
3 ID NO: 3.

1 24. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said probe hybridizes to at least 60
2 nucleotides of said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1 or said open reading frame of SEQ
3 ID NO: 3.

1 25. (New) The kit of claim 9 wherein said probe hybridizes to at least 25 nucleotides
2 of said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1 or said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 3.

1 26. (New) The kit of claim 9 wherein said probe hybridizes to at least 35 nucleotides
2 of said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1 or said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 3.

1 27. (New) The kit of claim 9 wherein said probe hybridizes to at least 55 nucleotides
2 of said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1 or said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 3.

1 28. (New) The kit of claim 9 wherein said probe hybridizes to at least 60 nucleotides
2 of said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 1 or said open reading frame of SEQ ID NO: 3.

REMARKS

After entrance of the above amendments and new claims, Claims 8-10 and 21-28 are pending in the Application, and are ready for examination. The amendments to the claims and new claims are supported and based upon the claims of the parent application. The claims are supported on page 32, lines 13 to 21 of the specification.